

Story 2075 (Transcribed by Ahmet Ali Arslan from his tape and later used in his unpublished dissertation.)

Narrator: Güllü Ağdağ, 68, housewife

Location: Hakveyis village, Iğdır, capital of Iğdır Province

Date: March 26, 1978

The Sky Is Falling

Once there was and once there was not a small bird. One day after that small bird had been flying around for some time, he became tired and settled on a branch of a tree. While he was resting there, a leaf fell upon his wing knocked him off the branch. He did not know what had him, but he said at once, "The sky must be falling down!"

That little bird fled from there in order to save his life. After the little bird had flown and flown and flown, he came to a hen. The hen asked him, "Where are you going in such a hurry?"

The bird answered, "The sky is falling, and I am running to get out of its way."

The chicken asked, "May I come with you?"

"Of course," said the little bird.

After they had traveled some distance, they met a goose which asked them, "Where are the two of you going together?"

The little bird answered, "The sky is falling, and we are fleeing to escape the danger."

Story 2075

goose asked, "May I go with you?"

"Yes, you may," said the little bird.

As the three were traveling along together, they met a rooster, who asked them, "Where are you going?"

little bird responded, "The sky is falling, and we are fleeing to get out of its way."

"Let me join you, too," said the rooster.

"Very well, but come along quickly," replied the little bird.

As the four of them were hurrying along, they came upon a hoopoe.¹ The hoopoe asked them, "What is the matter? Where are you going together?"

The little bird answered, "The sky is falling, and we are trying to get out of its way so that we will not be hurt."

Now five of them were fleeing together. After awhile they reached a place where a fox was sitting on a rock and watching them. When they came close to that rock, the fox asked them, "Where are all of you going?"

The little bird answered, "The sky is falling, and we are looking for a safe place to stay so that we will not be

¹The standard Turkish for hoopoe is ibibik, but in this tale the dialect word hibob is used.

Story 2075

killed by the weight of the sky."

"In that case, I can help you," said the fox. "I have a house that is strongly built. Nothing can harm you there. You will be perfectly safe."

After the travelers had entered his house, the fox began to eat them. He ate the little bird first. Then he ate the chicken, the goose, and the rooster, in that order. The fox then grabbed the hoopoe. But the hoopoe said, "Don't make any mistake about this. Allah created both of us. When you are ready to eat me, you should say, 'O blessed David.'"

But when the fox started to say that, the hoopoe escaped from his mouth. In disgust the fox said, "Why didn't I say, 'O blessed Ya-a-a-a!'"

²The narrator has the fox say literally, "Why didn't I say 'Cirt! Cirt!'?" Cirt means a harsh, screeching sound, but cirt itself is not a harsh, screeching sound, and it would not have given vent to the fox's annoyance. The editor provided Ya-a-a-a.